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AUTHENTIC MEMOIRS

[Baynton Benjamin]

OF

WILLIAM AUGUSTUS BOWLES,
ESQUIRE,

AMBASSADOR

From the UNITED NATIONS of

CREEKS AND CHEROKEES,

TO THE

COURT OF LONDON.

L O N D O N:

Printed for R. FAULDER, New Bond-street.

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TO THE PUBLIC.

WHEN the writer of the following narrative first took up his pen to give an account of the extraordinary man whom he has attempted to describe, he intended it should make its appearance in a newspaper. But his memory retracing a number of circumstances of which he was a spectator, and having heard of others from undoubted authority,

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thority, he was imperceptibly led forward, until the narrative became of too great length to appear in a public print. The partiality of a few friends for the performance, who think it not unworthy of public curiosity, has induced the author thus to offer it in the shape of a small pamphlet. To the graces of diction the author pretends not, the vicissitudes of his own life having unfortunately left him but little opportunity of cultivating them.

The shades also which form
the

the character of the person here delineated, are so strongly marked of themselves, as to catch the eye of the most careless observer, and leave but little for the pen to discriminate.

The ambition therefore of appearing in print, was certainly not the motive which has influenced him. Neither could political motives have any weight with a man, the circumstances of whose situation peculiarly abstract him from parties of any kind: and, if such had been his

motives, he is altogether ignorant of the nature of Mr. Bowles's embassy, any farther than from public report, which is most likely to be erroneous.

The embassy is doubtless a friendly one, and as such he wishes it success. The heart of the author therefore, warm with the recollection of heroic actions, is alone in fault; which is the only apology he offers for his temerity. But as there are some things which glance at the character of individuals who are unknown

known to the public, the writer takes this opportunity of declaring, that if there be any man who fancies his conduct mistated, or feels himself injured in the following sheets, or who shall be hardy enough to say that he has misrepresented things—and will either publicly, or by a note addressed to the publisher, sign his real name, and state his complaints—the writer, at all times ready to retract his errors, but never willing to desert the cause of truth, will most cheerfully step forward and avow himself. As to any anony-

mous paragraphs or publications reflecting on the writer, he will, as becomes him, treat them with silent contempt. He has, however, but little apprehensions on this score ; as the facts are stubborn, and will stand the test of the strictest enquiry.

AMONG the singular characters of the present day, no man for his years has experienced more numerous vicissitudes than the person whose life is now to be delineated.

William Augustus Bowles was born in Maryland, of respectable parents ; and it is highly probable that he would have been lost in the obscurity of his father's occu-

B

pation

pation (that of an American planter), had not fortune reserved him for great and hazardous enterprises.

At the commencement of the American war, Mr. Bowles was scarce thirteen years of age. But no sooner did the sound of war reach his ears, than the inherent principles of his soul were roused into action.

By whatever motives he was now influenced, whether an acquired partiality for the British name,

name, or an innate and restless love of variety, he eloped from his father's house ; and, after surmounting difficulties hardly to be credited at his years, arrived safe in the British camp at Philadelphia.

An artless school-boy, perfectly unacquainted with any mode of life beyond what he had learnt at his father's farm, Mr. Bowles was received as a volunteer in an old regiment ; and soon afterwards was appointed to an ensigncy in a provincial corps then raising.

When the British army marched from Philadelphia to New York, Mr. Bowles accompanied his regiment in that celebrated retreat; and was one among the flank companies who served at the memorable battle of Monmouth.

In the autumn of 1778, he embarked at New York with his corps for the island of Jamaica, and thence proceeded to Pensacola, in West Florida.

He had now been twelve months in the army, without being any way

way distinguished but as a giddy boy ; nor was his name known but in the muster-roll of his regiment, and in all probability would be this day a stranger to the world, but from an act of the most flagrant injustice, of which he was the victim.

In stating this fact, at once so cruel, so unjust, and so unprecedented, the writer of this account, an eye-witness of the transaction, does not mean to expose the names of those concerned in a business disgraceful

to the discipline of the army, and the cause of humanity. But it will afford a striking example of tyrannic power exercised over a young and inexperienced boy, whose peculiar situation ought to have demanded the protection, instead of provoking the vengeance, of his superiors.

Soon after his arrival in this country, Mr. Bowles obtained leave of his commanding officer to visit Pensacola, seven miles distant from the mouth of the harbour, where the corps to
which

which he belonged was then quartered. Hither he came, merely to satisfy his curiosity ; but this curiosity was productive of events which have governed his future life.

The party who commanded the boat which was to have conveyed him back to his quarters, having missed seeing him, returned without him ; and his colonel availing himself of this opportunity to substitute in his place some favourite of his own, represented him to the command-

ing officer of the garrison, as a young man who had neglected his duty, and who was every way unqualified for, and unworthy of, his profession. But before this dark transaction was accomplished, threats were made use of to induce him to resign his commission, which, however, he treated with disdain.—Let the feeling heart for a moment reflect on the situation of this devoted youth. Without a friend, or even an acquaintance *, let us
 con-

* The regiment to which Mr. Bowles belonged had not at this time been at
 Penfa-

consider him in a moment cut off from the society he alone could hold dear, by a general order, which declared that the king had no further use for his services. Accordingly he was dismissed the British army, without even the form of a trial. A stroke like this, so sudden and unexpected, it might have been supposed would have overwhelmed with terror and despondency the most undaunted spirit, and awakened to a sense of future wants the

Penfacola, and being just arrived from New York, his person was unknown to the gar-
rison.

most

most vagrant inattention.—But if we may judge from his subsequent conduct, this arbitrary and inhuman sentence he received with surprise, more than sorrow, and with indifference, rather than fear. Indeed, it is more than probable that he heard the decree which was to expose him in a friendless land to all the horrors of poverty and famine, with secret exultation.

The pangs of want he had never known ; but to the insolence of command, exercised by ignorant

rant and inexperienced young men unused to power, he was daily accustomed. Instead of expostulation, or appeal to his superiors, against this unjust stretch of power, or any attempt to deprecate the melancholy fate which seemed to await him, he appeared gay and unconcerned ; and the triumph of what he no doubt considered regained liberty, was evident in his whole deportment.

Behold then this disbanded young soldier—his last shilling

gone—too proud to beg, and too independent to stoop to menial offices—an uncultivated and savage country around him—no guide but chance—and no resource but in his own fortitude—behold him on the brink of apparently inevitable ruin! But Fortune, whose peculiar care he seems to have been, stepped in to save him. A party of the Creek nation were on their return home from Pensacola, whither they had come to receive their annual presents; and young Bowles, delighted with
the

the novelty of situation now opened to him, joined the party, having thrown his regimental coat, in contempt of his oppressors, into the sea. A situation so flattering to the independence natural in the heart of man, had doubtless many attractions. But whether the sameness of the scene, or a restlessness of disposition constitutional in him, or actuated through pride to shew himself once more among those who had reduced him to the appearance of a savage, he left his protectors, after having re-

sided with them a few months (probably with an intention to return); and came, unattended, to Pensacola. When he arrived on the opposite shore of the bay, he found a hoghead, which some British ships had left behind them; and Bowles, impatient of delay, without waiting for any other conveyance, like an Eskimaux*, with

* To those who are unacquainted with the various tribes of indigenous natives inhabiting the immense shores of North America, the following description may not appear intrusive. The boat of the
Eskimaux

with the difference of a hoghead
for a boat, the branch of a tree
his

Esquimaux savage, inhabitant of the bleak
and frozen shores of Labrador, is about six
feet in length ; in which he sits down, with
his thighs and legs stretched horizontally.
This boat, which does not exceed a foot
and a half in breadth, is covered with a
kind of deck, with a hoop in the middle,
just large enough to admit his waist, which
is surrounded by a piece of leather, fastened
to the hoop, so as to prevent any water
from coming into the vessel.

In this boat, with a paddle in his hand,
the shivering, solitary savage ventures into
the boisterous ocean, and destroys the largest
of

his mast, a blanket his sail, and a few stones his ballast, navigated the extensive shores of the harbour; in the day procuring the food of life, and beguiling the tediousness of time by fowling and fishing, and at night regaling on his prey; the sky his canopy, and the earth his bed.

of marine animals (the whale), whose oil, which he drinks, secures him scarce half alive, during the severity of eternal frost.

In a hoghead, with an opening which he made, equal in circumference to the dimensions of his body, Mr. Bowles failed as above described.

In

In this very hogthead, perhaps, his bosom first throbbed with the desire of nautical knowledge; and here also he first had occasion to seek for resources in himself alone; resources which at some future day were to shield him in the hour of danger, and which alone could complete him for the leader of a brave and gallant nation *.

Here

* It may not be unnecessary to observe that the Creek nations, divided into Upper and Lower Creeks, are the acknowledged superiors of all the North-American tribes.

Here it was that the author
 first remembers to have seen him:
 his

The country of Creeks and Cherokees, as laid down in Governor Pownall's map, is comprised between the 30th and 37th degrees of north latitude, and between the 83d and 90th of west longitude from Greenwich; bounded on the east by Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia; on the south, by West Florida; and on the west, by the Mississippi, from the confluence of the Ohio. This country, extending a thousand miles in length, and several hundred in breadth, is, if we may judge of its productions, of the richest soil in North America; and not only the various fruits of the tropics, but those of more northern

his curiosity from that time was strongly awakened concerning so singular a character; and his mind then presaged the daring actions, some of which the author has witnessed, which have since distinguished the *Beloved Warrior* *.

northern climes grow here in their utmost perfection. Wheat, cotton, indigo, rice, tobacco, and corn of all kinds, when cultivated, produce the most abundant harvest.

The climate, cooled by the nitrous particles of the air, is superior to the south of France, and less oppressive than Italy, or that of Asia Minor.

* By this appellation he is universally known to the nations.

But this precarious and hazardous livelihood did not last long. The frost of 1779 will be long remembered in the Floridas ; and young Bowles, almost naked, superior to the injuries of men, found in the elements an enemy that neither strength of constitution, or fortitude of mind, could withstand. He wanted shelter, and it was not long before he received it. Among the inhabitants of the town who saw his situation, there was one, a baker by profession, who had a heart to commiserate and relieve him. Under the roof of this hospitable stranger

stranger he remained the greatest part of the winter, who finding him a strong and robust lad, thought it but reasonable that he should assist to make the bread which he so plentifully ate.

Highly impressed, as no doubt he was, with a sense of obligation, for such unmerited goodness, an aversion to labour, peculiar to the habits in which he had so lately indulged, made him reject the proposal; and he would again have been exposed to all his former dangers, but for his old friends the Creeks.

The extraordinary inclemency of the season had brought them down for presents ; and Bowles once more returned with them, and remained near two years. The friendly character of the North-American savages, when not irritated by resentment, or made sanguinary through thirst of revenge, is well known. During this period, such was their mutual regard, that he strengthened the ties of friendship by marrying a daughter of one of their chiefs. Thus he became doubly united to them, both
from

from inclination, and the ties of blood; and his children were living pledges of their father's fidelity.

Habit had now confirmed his predilection for a state of nature ; and, on the commencement of hostilities between Great Britain and Spain, he was thought worthy of being enrolled among the fighting men of this warlike nation. Nor did he discredit their choice. His conduct throughout the war was eminently distinguished for coolness and vigour

in action; and the most venerable chiefs pointed him out as an example worthy of imitation.

Here we discover a striking feature of his soul, which can look down with conscious superiority on the heaviest injuries, and, when glory demands, forget them.

Charmed with the remembrance of his magnanimity, the characteristic of every noble mind, the author could dwell long on this transaction, so honourable

nourable to him, and so degrading, by the contrast, to those who were the cause of placing him in a state which gave him such envied pre-eminence.

During the above period he neither fought or shunned his enemies. Glory was his passion, and war he considered the path which led to it.

Englishmen who may read this narrative will be enabled to judge of his enthusiastic attachment for the British nation; an attachment
which

which has often led him to brave death in her defence, and which has exposed him to the utmost inclemency of the seasons: actuated by this attachment, he has crossed the Atlantic, to declare to this country the partiality and regard of himself and nation, and probably with a view of forming an advantageous and permanent connection.

Indeed, his regard for this country, imbibed in his early life, is only to be equalled by his affection for those by whom he was adopted.

But

But it will transcend all praise of Mr. Bowles, when it is known, that such was his heroic contempt of danger, and such his persevering ardour, both day and night, against the enemies of Great Britain, during the investiture of Pensacola, that the commander in chief of that department, struck with the singular gallantry of the man, as well as conscious of his eminent services, reinstated him in his former rank in the corps, from which, as it has been related, he had been so singularly dismissed.

In recording the history of his life, it would be an act of injustice in the author, to bury, under a general description, some memorable instances of courage, which so strongly mark this prominent feature of his character.

The following at least deserve notice.

In the year 1780, the author accompanied a small detachment from Pensacola to the bay of Mobile, with an intention of surprizing a Spanish fortified village,

lage, of the above name; and here it was he first had an opportunity of beholding in person the determined resolution of the hero of these sheets.

Young Bowles, now grown out of recollection, and in every respect like a savage warrior, was introduced, for the first time, to his acquaintance, in the midst of several hundred savages, who marched with the detachment.

On the 7th of January of the above year, at day-light in
the

the morning, the signal was given to assault ; and Bowles, leaving the warriors to fight in their own way, rushed on with the British troops. It is with no small degree of pleasure, that the author feels he can avail himself of this opportunity of celebrating an attack, without the appearance of egotism, which, for its gallantry, according to the numbers, was not surpassed by any action during the whole of the last war. To the honour of this small detachment, which consisted only of fifty British soldiers, they forced the
work,

work, and carried it at the same instant, against four hundred Spanish troops, who attempted to escape on board an armed vessel, which lay off the fort. But from this they were prevented by the savages, who slew many in the water, attempting to seek refuge in their boats. All possibility of flight being thus cut off, they became emboldened by despair, and took shelter in their barracks, from the windows of which they annoyed the remaining few of the British, who had escaped in the assault.

But more than half of this gallant detachment were either killed or wounded. Out of ten officers, three were killed, and three were badly wounded. Two others, of a foreign regiment, were exerting themselves to compel, at the points of their swords, fifty of the original detachment, who refused to do their duty. There remained left in the fort but two officers, with scarce twenty men, who must inevitably have fallen, had they not been forced to fly their vainly imagined victory.

In the midst of all this danger, Bowles, with the coolness of an unconcerned spectator, very leisurely loaded and discharged his rifle gun at those who were firing from the windows; and when the British soldiers called to the above two officers to save their lives by flight, our hero posted himself behind a tree, within a few yards of the work, loading and firing alone; and he must undoubtedly have been killed or taken, had not a cannon-ball from the enemy shivered the tree to pieces, and driven him,

D unhurt,

unhurt, to gain the small flying party, already at the distance of a quarter of a mile. He also distinguished himself at a sortie, made by ninety-six rank and file provincial troops, at twelve at noon, on the Spanish lines at Pensacola, who carried the advanced post of the enemy, with the loss of only one man. This attack will be long remembered in the Spanish army, by the gentlemen of the Irish brigade who survived this bloody assault. Fifty, of seven hundred men, who were in the works, were
killed

killed with bayonets alone, besides numbers who were shot, flying down the trenches. The gallantry of the Irish officers never shone more distinguished than on this day: they kept their ground, though trod down by the Spanish soldiers; and those who fell fought to the last gasp, with their small swords in their hands.

But his career had been near finished, a few days afterward, by the blowing up of the British advanced redoubt, as he was en-

tering it ; and he beheld the melancholy spectacle of near a hundred men blown into the air, almost within his reach. Five seconds sooner, and he must have been numbered with the dead.

On the reduction of West Florida, Bowles, with the rest of the garrison, returned to New York, on parole ; where they continued until duly exchanged the year following.

Some time after this, a party was formed in his corps, who,
jealous

jealous of his justly-acquired popularity, planned his downfall. They accordingly put him under arrest ; and exhibited between twenty and thirty charges against him *. Among these was one for ungentleman-like behaviour ; and

* In justice to the following gentlemen of the corps to which Mr. Bowles belonged, the writer feels himself called upon to declare, that neither Major Dulaney, Captains Key, Addition, and Kennedy, for whom he has the highest respect, had any share in the above prosecution. The two first gentlemen were in England at the time, and only knew of the transaction by report.

when the court questioned his accusers for proof of this charge, they could only adduce his having been frequently seen bringing in scalps, during the siege of Pensacola. This charge he did not attempt to confute *.

Nor let the sympathetic mind

* It must be remembered that, at the time now specified, Mr. Bowles was not only naked, like a savage, but was fighting side by side with his brother chiefs, who would have considered his withholding his hand from seizing this distinguished badge of a warrior's bravery, as a mark of pusillanimity, and treated him accordingly.

turn

turn aside with horror and indignation at this recital. Souls highly fraught with sensibility are too apt to be led away by names, instead of things. The savage, kneeling on his prey, and tearing the hair from the head of his prostrate, helpless victim, his knife having previously marked the circumference of the scalp * sheer to the skull-bone, is an object which cultivated humanity shudders to behold.

* The circumference of the scalp is in general about the size of an English half-crown.

But when it is considered that the victim is already dead, or senseless, before the scalp is thus torn away, we can only view it as a barbarous custom, savage indeed, but not inhuman.

But in whatever light the general court-martial before which he was arraigned, beheld this and the other charges, he was most honourably acquitted of them all.

Happily for his accusers, the peace in 1783 put a stop to all thoughts of prosecuting in return;

turn; and Bowles contented himself in the applause of the army, and the approbation of his own heart.

Mr. Bowles now received Lord Dorchester's permission to visit his father's family, and his old friends and relations the Creeks; to whom, he assured his Lordship, he was under the greatest obligations. With his father it seems he did not remain long; but soon hastened to join his adoptive brethren in East Florida, who received him with open arms.

But

But ambition had now begun to stimulate his curiosity, and would not suffer him to remain long even with them.

After a year's residence, during which he taught them many wise regulations of civil and domestic policy, as well as new rules of military discipline, suitable to their climate and state of civilization, recommending also the utility of agriculture ; and having concerted future plans of national prosperity—he left them deeply impressed with reverence
for

for his talents, and affection for his person. From this period it is that his character becomes important. He had already felt the sharpest arrows of adversity ; he had experienced the worst that civilized men could do to him : from barbarians he had found shelter, in the days of calamity ; to them he was perhaps indebted for his existence ; in the old he found fathers, and in the young brothers, who taught him to despise difficulties of every kind, and to look with indifference on a life furrounded with innumerable

numerable and unforeseen dangers.

He had learned to know the animal man, stripped of artificial habits; and he knew him also with his seducing charms of polished manners.—The contrast was striking; and the judgment he formed appears to be decisive.

He was now in his 19th year; and the faculties of his soul, concealed from himself, began to unfold. Having explored the coasts of the two Floridas, he
visited

visited the southern possessions of the American United States, with whose strength and resources he made himself minutely and accurately acquainted. Nor did he stop here: he visited the Bahamas; in one of the principal islands of which, he indulged all the caprices of a mind highly gifted by nature: and it will afford matter of curious reflection to the philosopher, when he is told that this uncommon genius was amusing himself by acting plays, while his mind was employed on schemes of dangerous enter-

enterprizes, and bold ambition. But to his honour be it told, that a nobler motive than amusement governed his choice. Charity was the object: and a distressed loyalist, with a helpless family, experienced his bounty, though he sunk a considerable sum by this generous exertion.

Nor was his taste confined to the drama alone. Having painted his own scenes, he fancied he was qualified to distinguish himself as a portrait-painter, in which he succeeded beyond expectation ;
and

and did not hesitate to receive pay for his labours ; thereby doubly deceiving those who were interested to pry into his designs *.

Still he was at a loss for paints to colour his likenesses, and it was impossible to purchase them in New Providence.

But a man endowed like the ambaffador of the Creeks, rose

* His dramatic troop being ignorant people, unacquainted with the stage, and picked up promiscuously, he was obliged to unite in himself the different characters of manager, player, and painter.

superior to this difficulty. He became chemist, and created colours for himself; in the exercise of which new profession, he one day, on decomposing some mineral, had nearly sacrificed his life.

He also taught himself the rudiments of music, and soon became a tolerable proficient on the flute and violin. In the above island Mr. Bowles has left a memorial of himself, which will not be soon or easily effaced.

The

The part he took in the politics here, for the last four years, in which he uniformly sided with government ; his frequent voyages to and from the Continent ; the supplies of powder, and all kinds of military implements, which he exported to the natives, as his resources of wealth were unknown, afforded matter of infinite astonishment to those who were eye-witnesses of his conduct.

Falsehoods of different degrees of malignancy were industriously propagated at his expence ; and

E there

there was scarce a crime in the whole catalogue of human depravity, murder not even excepted, that was not charged to his account. To such a pitch of malevolence had the evil tongue of slander arrived, that he was presented by the grand jury of the island as a dangerous and suspected person, and one whom it behoved government to secure.

From these slanders, to the shame and discomfiture of his enemies, he gloriously acquitted himself.

The curious are referred for particulars to the Lucayan Royal Herald of 1789, where will be found how many obstacles he had to contend with, and with what spirit and firmness he vindicated his injured reputation *.

In

* Since writing the above narrative, the author has had the good fortune to meet with the Lucayan Herald of the 19th of August 1789, published in the island of New Providence. This is the paper alluded to above, signed by Mr. Bowles, in which he has given an account of his conduct; which account the author believes was never attempted to be contradicted by his

In writing this account, the author had no idea of giving a full-length character; but, warmed with the love of heroic actions, he has been irresistibly hurried forward thus to bring to public view facts which he trusts are not unworthy public notice.

Before then the outlines are enemies. Those who feel themselves interested in the character of Mr. Bowles, may have an opportunity of investigating particulars, by applying to the publisher of this pamphlet, in whose hands the author has left the above paper, with directions to offer its perusal indiscriminately to those who wish it.

filled

filled up, which mark the features of character in this self-formed hero, it may not be unnecessary to relate three incidents, which, as they characteristically distinguish him, will need no further apology.—When the private agents of Mr. Bowles had secretly amassed a sufficient quantity of warlike stores, he himself most unexpectedly stepped on board a vessel, and sailed for the Continent. This mysterious conduct baffled all the schemes of his enemies in the Spanish in-

terest, and left them to vague and wild conjectures.

Meanwhile, his agents were employed in shipping on board a vessel, previously chartered by him, the above stores ; and on the day appointed set sail for St. Mark's, in the bay of Appalaha ; where Bowles (the preconcerted signals having been mutually made and acknowledged by those in the vessel and the party on shore), with a strong detachment of Creeks, was ready to receive them.

them. The Spanish governor of St. Mark, terrified at his appearance, fired his alarm guns, and put himself in a posture to oppose him.

But blood was not the object of this voyage; to prevent which, Bowles sent the commandant word, that if he made any opposition to his landing the stores, the savages were determined to attack the fort; the consequences of which he begged him to avert: and accordingly he was quietly permitted to land his cargo,

which the warriors conveyed on horses, brought for the purpose, into the heart of their country.

This was the first foundation of a magazine that is to supply the united nations of the Creeks and Cherokees with arms and ammunition, that may one day, perhaps, shake the power of the Spanish empire in South America, and give freedom to the long oppressed and enslaved natives of Montezuma's realm.—What is now going to be related, borders so much on the improbable and impos-

impossible, that the writer would not have hazarded a suspicion of his truth by giving it a place here, had not the fact been witnessed by the whole island of New Providence.

Bowles, as has been observed, made several voyages to and from the Bahamas and the Continent; in one of which, he carried over with him five native chiefs, probably those who are now with him as associates in his embassy.

Having purchased a small vessel,

fel, and fettled his affairs agreeable to his wifhes, to the no fmall amazement of all who beheld him, he fet fail from the harbour, attended only by his five chiefs, in the midft of a gale of wind.

His enemies rejoiced in what they confidered his inevitable defftruction ; and were convinced that, if their intelligence to the Spaniards of his intended departure did not take effect, he would find his fate in a watery grave.

Let us now conceive him, toffed
indeed

indeed by adverse waves and adverse winds, teaching barbarians the use of the compass, and of things of which their language afforded no name or symbol.

But the winds and waves spared him. After springing a mast, and carrying away a foretop, he arrived safe at his place of destination.

He alone who had sailed in a hogthead would have braved such dangers ; and, having braved them, none with skill inferior
to

to his would have surmounted them.—The last circumstance which the author means to relate, will throw no small light on the forgiving temper of Mr. Bowles's mind. The reader will here *observe*, that the principle which sheds the finest lustre over his actions, is humanity. It is this ruling principle in the heart of Mr. Bowles which has chiefly influenced the author to record the events of his life. The author has long endeavoured to learn to separate ferociousness from courage, and bravery from barbarity; qualities

qualities which too often unite in the same person. But the blaze which ever attends valour has not blinded him throughout any part of this short history. He relates only what he has seen, and what he believes: but the most incredulous may err, and the most penetrating is liable to be deceived.

His cargo being secured on shore, Mr. Bowles took this opportunity of further instructing his five companions in the art of navigation, and made several
 excu-

excursions from the land into the Florida Gulph.

On his return from one of these essays, he was hailed and fired into by a Spanish guarda costa, expressly cruising for him.

This was a moment when all his presence of mind was necessary ; and he well knew, if he were taken, his life would be the forfeit. A reward, such as was sufficient to shake the fidelity of most men whose principles of honour

honour and gratitude were not confirmed, but from its very nature peculiarly alluring to barbarians, had for some time before been offered by Spanish proclamation for his head, with which he was well acquainted *.

But the attachment of his faithful associates was not to be corrupted by the love of gold, or the more powerful and seductive bait of uncontrouled intoxication.

* The reward offered was six thousand dollars, and fifteen hundred kegs of taffia, or rum distilled from molasses.

He

He shortened sail; and when the Spaniards had hoisted out their boat to board him, Bowles returned a broadside from six four-pounders, till then concealed from view. This unexpected reception threw them into the utmost confusion; and they fled with all the sail they could crowd, without any attempt or intention on his part to pursue them.

He again landed; conveyed his chiefs in safety to their homes, amid the shouts of a thousand warriors.

Bowles's

Bowles's attachment to the natives was now manifest; and the interest he took in their happiness all his actions strongly evinced. In return he became their first counsellor, and commander in chief*. But ambition and envy are common to all mankind. This open preference raised him many rivals; and nothing now could have saved him but superior skill and sagacity.

* Counsellors among the Creeks are hereditary; but Mr. Bowles was preferred to this dignified station through adoption, and made commander in chief of their armies by universal consent.

This period was infinitely the most dangerous of his whole life. Desperate factions, and bloody resolutions, were planned for his destruction; and such were the perils that surrounded him, that his death seemed inevitable. Thus was his peace of mind disturbed in a quarter where he could least have expected it. This, however, appears to have been his last struggle for acknowledged superiority. His active and penetrating eye discovered all the machinations which were formed against him; and his invincible courage palsied
the

the hand of the assassin. The exalted powers of his mind annihilated the influence of his foes ; his integrity stood conspicuous ; and his love for the nations, which went hand in hand with his life, was no longer to be suspected. He was appointed ambassador to the British King by the unanimous voice of twenty thousand warriors, ready to hazard their lives at the command of their beloved brother, son, and chief.

In stature Mr. Bowles com-

mands our attention from his height, and the conformation of his limbs, such as that of the gladiator in the statue, denoting the combined qualities of strength and activity. With a countenance open, bold, and penetrating, he has acquired the gravity of manners corresponding with those of the nations whose habits he has assumed. His constitution, superior to all changes of climate, and equal to the greatest bodily exertions, disdains the indulgence of effeminate pleasures. Hunger and cold are natural evils, to
which

which he submits without a murmur: fatigue and want of rest he considers as the unavoidable attendants of a warrior's life. Temperance he practises from choice, and the force of his example manifests itself among his people. In the endowments of his mind, nature has peculiarly formed him for great and daring achievements; but the leading feature of his soul is ambition, to which every other passion is made subservient.

Intrepid and enterprising, his

motions, the effects of deliberate reflection, are sudden as lightning, and less suspected. To these talents of a warrior, he unites accomplishments which not only excite in our minds the highest pitch of admiration, but even approach to the marvellous.

A player, without having seen above three dramatic entertainments in his life, and those by the gentlemen of the army at New York. A painter, who never felt the effects of the art but on a sign post.

post. A chemist, without even the rudiments of the science. A sailor, without study of the principles of navigation. A self-taught warrior, instructing savages in tactics, and reducing their barbarous and hitherto uncontrouled spirits to the rules of military discipline. A legislator, forming a code of laws wisely adapted to their manners and situation; teaching the untutored barbarian, shivering at every wintry blast, to secure himself against the inclemency of the seasons; and changing him from

the hunter, waſting his life to preſerve a precarious ſubſiſtence; into the more civilized ſtate of a herdsman : in a word, altering his whole nature, without making him effeminate.

And, laſtly, let us contemplate him as a politician, unpractiſed in courts, yet claiming the attention of two of the principal powers of Europe (England and Spain *) : and when we have

* If the author is not miſinformed, Mr. Bowles has already engaged in a correſpondence with count Florida Banca.

viewed

viewed him assimilating such contrarieties of character, our admiration will have no bounds, when it is known that the *Be-loved Warrior* of the most warlike of all the native American tribes, has but just attained his six-and-twentieth year.

Lovers of genius, philosophers, and men of letters, 'tis to you that this portrait is dedicated. Encouragers and promoters of the arts, legislators who love your fellow-creatures, 'tis you who can instruct the original in
all

all things that may be useful to the nations he may one day govern ; 'tis in your power to temper the ardour of the conqueror with the love of peace, and to turn the ambition of dominion to the service of mankind.

Should any among you doubt the likeness thus drawn, satisfy yourselves with the original : he is eager to learn, and cannot be ashamed to be seen. If the features appear disproportionate to those of the mass of mankind, let it be remembered that they have
 been

been forced into aggravation by the hand of necessity ; and that the same necessity which compelled the original to strain every nerve and muscle into the likeness of what is seldom seen, will justify the colouring of the copy. Let them be also reminded, that though Mr. Bowles has, through necessity, occasionally distinguished himself as a player, painter, chemist, mariner, warrior, legislator, and politician, he is yet but a novice in all these acquirements—that he whom necessity compels to assume any profession from

rules drawn by the combination of genius and accident, to answer the difficulties of the moment, is liable to forget them as soon as the difficulties cease. Genius indeed may, on emergency, call to its aid every art or science; but to know any accurately, or make them generally useful, they must be written before they can be taught, and reduced to known principles before they can be remembered.

I have now finished this instructive character; and, should chance
direct

direct the eye of Mr. Bowles to these sheets, the author cannot help indulging his fancy in beholding him, for the first time in his life, contemplating with surprise and honest pride those powers of his mind, which the busy and active scenes which have hitherto employed him, must have prevented. His wonder will be doubtless blended with lively gratitude, on finding an early and eager observer of his actions thus penetrating into the recesses of his heart, describing the secret emotion of his soul, and recalling
to

to his memory a faithful state of his mind when an outcast from the society of Christian men ; unless indeed the author has portrayed a fanciful instead of a real character.

Should a recollection of what has passed recal one to his mind, whose hand and whose heart were always ready to mitigate the rigour of his cruel destiny (though of great powers he could not boast), the writer will not, need not, he trusts, blush to acknowledge himself.

May this feeble and unskilful
proof

proof of attachment raise Mr. Bowles to that importance in his own estimation, which is so essential to great designs ; and may it at the same time remind him, that it is much easier to bear adversity than to support prosperity.

An Observer of Mankind.

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